Non-technical Abstract for HVTN 060:

The development of a safe and effective vaccine to prevent HIV infection is a global health priority. Wyeth Research is developing a combination HIV vaccine regimen. One vaccine is made from DNA, genetic material containing part of an HIV gene called Gag. It is given with a DNA gene for IL-12, a substance in the body that might help improve the immune response to the vaccine. Another kind of vaccine is made with parts of proteins that mimic limited portions of HIV. This vaccine is called HIV CTL MEP. This vaccine is also given with adjuvants, substances used to stimulate the immune system to increase the response to the vaccine. It is hoped that using these vaccines one after another in a combination vaccine approach may be able to raise enough immunity to protect against HIV. The study will involve 156 healthy adult participants who do not have HIV. In the trial, some people will get one kind of vaccine, some will receive both kinds of vaccine, and some people will receive a salt water solution without any HIV vaccine. The multicenter, randomized, placebo-controlled, double blinded study will be done at four sites. None of the vaccines can cause HIV infection or AIDS.
Similar vaccines have been tested in monkeys, and the effect of the vaccines on the immune system could be measured in the blood.
The main purpose of the present study is to make sure that the vaccines and the adjuvants are all safe and cause no serious or bothersome side effects.